

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 281339Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2148

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN PAPER AND MOZAMBIQUE CLERGY AGAIN RAISE

WIRIYAMU MASSACRE ISSUE

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 576; (B) LOURENCO MARQUES 615;

(C) LOURENCO MARQUES 629; (D) LOURENCO MARQUES A-124

1. SEPTEMBER 25 ISSUE JOHANNESBURG STAR CARRIES LEAD FRONT

PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED "THERE WAS A MASSACRE IN MOZAMBIQUE".

STORY, FROM "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, NAMPULA", STATES THAT

ON DECEMBER 16, 1972, BLACK AND WHITE TROOPS OF MOZAMBIQUE

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6TH COMMANDO GROUP SHOT DOWN ABOUT 100 VILLAGERS AT "WILIAMO",

KILLING 70 - 80 OF THEM. INCIDENT AROSE AFTER ARMY PATROL WAS AMBUSHED WHILE INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF SHOTS FIRED FROM WILIAMO AT LIGHT AIRCRAFT SOME TIME PREVIOUSLY. ON DECEMBER 16 WILIAMO WAS FIRST "BOMBED" BY A LIGHT MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ENTERED BY MEMBERS OF THE SIXTH COMMANDOS EXPECTING TO FIND FRELIMO GUERRILLAS PRESENT. VILLAGERS WERE LINED UP, TOLD TO CLAP, AND SHOT DOWN. COMMANDOS THEN POURED GASOLINE ON THE HUTS AND BODIES, SET THEM AFIRE, AND WITHDREW.

2. ACCORDING TO STORY, THE SURVIVORS -- NUMBERING ABOUT ONE QUARTER OF POPULATION -- TOLD STORY TO BOTH OFFICIALS AND MISSIONARIES. 70 - 80 BODIES WERE COUNTED BY OFFICIALS VISITING WILIAMO TWO OR THREE WEEKS AFTER KILLING, BUT BODIES WERE ONLY BURIED AFTER A MONTH. SURVIVORS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED MEDICAL TREATMENT AND WERE LEFT FREE. BUT JOURNALISTS VISITING AREA LOCATED ONLY 15 YEAR OLD "ANTONIO", NOW SUPPOSED TO BE IN HIDING SOMEWHERE (REF A).

3. STAR STORY ALLEGES THAT COL. VIDEIRA, MILITARY GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER OF TETE DISTRICT, WAS CALLED ON CARPET BY COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA, AND WAS TOLD TO PREVENT ANY RECURRENT, BUT LISBON REPORTEDLY NOT INFORMED OF KILLING UNTIL AFTER STORY BROKE DURING PRIME MINISTER CAETANO'S LONDON VISIT. CAETANO ALLEGEDLY SENT OFFICIALS TO MAKE SPECIAL INQUIRY, AND COL. VIDEIRA, PAPER ALLEGES, WAS GIVEN 24 HOURS TO QUIT, AS THE MAN ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE. (VIDEIRA'S DEPARTURE REPORTED REF. B)

4. STAR ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT VIDEIRA DISMISSAL WAS DIRECT RESULT OF CAETANO'S INVESTIGATION, AND LED TO DISCLOSURE OF STORY. AN EDITORIAL IN SAME ISSUE DESCRIBES STORY AS "GREAT EXERCISE IN DOGGED INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING," AND SAYS IT HAS "COMPLETE CONFIDENCE" IN THE RELIABILITY OF ITS UNIDENTIFIED WITNESSES. SAYING PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT "GRAVELY MISTAKEN" IN TRYING TO COVER UP MASSACRE AND IN REFUSING PUBLIC INQUIRY, EDITORIAL NEVERTHELESS NOTES "IN ALL FAIRNESS" THAT PORTUGUESE DID MAKE PRIVATE INVESTIGATION AND REMOVED COL. VIDEIRA, "THEREBY PROCLAIMING TO THEIR TROOPS THAT KILLINGS LIKE THIS ARE NO PART OF THE POLICY OF SAVING THE LOCAL CIVILIANS FROM TERROR." EXPOSURE OF THE FACTS ABOUT WILIAMO SHOULD "HELP TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROMOTE THAT POLICY, THE SUCCESS OF WHICH IS OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL SOUTHERN AFRICA."

5. MEANWHILE, LONDON TIMES SEPTEMBER 20 QUOTES STATEMENT ISSUED BY PORTUGAL'S CARDINAL ANTONIO RIBEIRO RELEASING TEST OF "NOTE OF CLARIFICATION" SIGNED AUGUST 30 BY BISHOP FRANCISCO NUNES TEIXEIRA OF QUELIMANE AS PRESIDENT OF MOZAMBIQUE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE. THIS NOTE, IN TURN, EXCERPTS FROM

FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS REGARDING CHURCH INVESTIGATION OF MASS-ACRE REPORTS: (A) LETTER FROM MOZAMBIQUE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE TO GOVERNOR GENERAL, DATED MARCH 31, 1973, NOTING THAT CONFERENCE HAD "HEARD DETAILS, WHICH ARE BEING CIRCULATED, OF THE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE WITHIN CHIEF GANDALI REGIONS, NOT FAR FROM THE CITY OF TETE, DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER LAST -- EVENTS ACCORDING TO WHICH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, SOME OF THEM ABSOLUTELY INNOCENT, MIGHT HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES THROUGH THE ACTION OF THE ARMED FORCES," AND HAD ASKED BISHOP OF TETE TO INVESTIGATE. LETTER SAYS BISHOP OF TETE ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN "CAREFUL INFORMATION ON THE VERACITY OF THE FACTS" FROM DISTRICT AUTHORITIES AND GOVERNOR GENERAL HIMSELF, BUT IMPLIES HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. IT CONCLUDES BY DENOUNCING SUCH ACTS "WHETHER PERPETRATED BY THE ARMED FORCES OR ELEMENTS OF THE FRELIMO," AND EXPRESSES HOPE THAT "THROUGH THE DISCLOSURE OF TRUTH AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF BLAME, THERE WILL BE A GROWTH OF CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE CREATION OF A CLIMATE OF SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE AFFECTED AREAS, WHO FIND THEMSELVES GENERALLY IN THE CROSS-FIRE AND THEREFORE ARE SUBJECT TO CONSTANT SUFFERINGS." (B) REPLY FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL, DATED APRIL 3, NOTING THAT CIVIL AND MILITARY FORCES DO THEIR BEST AVOID CASUALTIES OR SUFFERING AMONG POPULATION, AND THAT WHEN "UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE

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AREAS WHERE THE TERRORISTS ARE SCATTERED AMONG THEM OR BENEFIT FROM THEIR VOLUNTARY OR FORCEE SUPPORT" INCIDENTS CAN OCCUR, BUT WILL BE SUBJECT TO INVESTIGATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION. HE PROMISED TO REPORT TO BISHOP THE RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION BEING MADE BY A JUDICIAL INSPECTOR. (C) OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM NATIONAL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, PUBLISHED AUGUST 19, CONCLUDING THAT "ISOLATED FORCES CONTRADICTING ORDERS HAD, AT LEAST ON ONE OCCASION, COMMITTED REPREHENSIBLE ACTS" IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TETE REGION. BISHOP OF QUELIMANE'S NOTE CONCLUDES BY EXPRESSING MOZAMBIQUE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE'S REPUGNANCE FOR "ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH ARE OPPOSED TO RIGHTS AND LIVES OF HUMAN BEINGS," AND STATES ITS READINESS TO PUBLICLY DECLARE ITSELF, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, "TO BE AGAINST ANY FORM OF INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION WHICH, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE WAR CONTEXT, MIGHT ARISE IN EITHER OF THE TWO OPPOSING CAMPS."

6. MOZAMBIQUE'S ARCHBISHOP ALVIM PEREIRA LEFT LOURENCO MARQUES SEPTEMBER 24 ON TRIP TO LISBON AND ROME; HE IS DUE BACK OCTOBER 27. PRESUMABLY HE WILL BE DISCUSSING MASSACRE CHARGES WITH CARDINAL RIBEIRO AND WITH VATICAN. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REF. C), HIS VISIT TO ROME WAS PRECEDED BY THAT OF BISHOPS OF TETE, NAMPULA, AND QUELIMANE. (NOTE: IN THAT REPORT I ABSENTMINDEDLY ATTRIBUTED TO BISHOP OF QUELIMANE THE OPEN LETTER BY BISHOP OF VILA CABRAL (LOURENCO MARQUES A-13) DENOUNCING BEIRA CRITICS OF BISHOPS' BEHAVIOR.)

7. COMMENT: JOHANNESBURG STAR HAS THUS FAR PROVIDED BALANCED AND THOUGHTFUL COVERAGE OF WIRIYAMU ACCUSATIONS (REF. D), AND I AM INCLINED TO CREDIT ITS STATEMENT THAT IT HAS CONFIDENCE IN THE SOURCES FOR ITS NEA ACCOUNT, WHICH DOES NOT SEEM IN CONFLICT WITH THE OTHER LIMITED EVIDENCE AT HAND. NEVERTHELESS,

ESS, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES  
WILL CONTINUE TO REJECT THE ADVICE OF BOTH JOURNALISTS AND  
CLERGY  
THAT PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND PUNISHMENT OF GUILTY  
WOULD BE IN INTERESTS OF JUSTICE AND, IN LONG RUN, OF PORTUGAL'S  
CAUSE ISELF.  
STAR'S ASSERTION THAT COL. VIDIRA'S ABRUPT  
DEPARTURE WAS DUE TO  
CAETANO'S ANNOYANCE ABOUT COVERUP WHICH  
LET HIM GET CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY FATHER HASTINGS' ALLEGATIONS  
(IF INDEED HE WAS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE), SEEMS MORE SPECULATIVE  
THAN OBVIOUS, THOUGH IF TRUE THE LEAKS TO PRESS MIGHT HAVE  
COME FROM INDIGNANT ASSOCIATES OF VIDIRA.  
HOWEVER, THERE MANY  
OTHER REASONS WHY INCOMING COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BASTO MACHADO  
MIGHT HAVE WANTED NEW FACES IN COMMAND OF TETE OPERATIONAL  
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ZONE AND TETE DISTRICT.

8. WIRIYAMU STORY CERTAINLY NOT OVER, BUT ONE CAN ALREADY  
SPECULATE THAT, AS SO OFTEN IN PAST, PORTUGAL'S INDIGNANT,  
DEFIANT DENIAL OF ACCUSATIONS AS INSULTS TO HER HONOR HAS  
ONLY SUCCEEDED IN TARNISHING THAT HONOR IN THE EYES OF MUCH  
OF THE WORLD. THIS SEEMS TRUE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT REAL FACTS  
OF WIRIYAMU WERE, AND DESPITE FACT THERE HAS BEEN NO WORLD  
PROTEST AGAINST REPEATED, ALMOST CERTAINLY CALCULATED, ACTS  
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE'S CIVILIAN AFRICAN POPULATION  
COMMITTED BY PORTUGAL'S FRELIMO ADVERSARY.

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## Message Attributes

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